



Water Quality NewsFlash

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Polybrominated Compounds – OEHHA report urges pollution prevention –

As discussed in *NewsFlash* 04-39, the legislature banned two polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) – pentaBDE and octaBDE – effective June 1 of this year. These are two of the three common commercial mixtures of PBDEs. The third type - decaBDE - is considered possibly less of a risk. These compounds are used primarily as fire retardants and have been increasing rapidly in the environment. For unknown reasons, some of the highest levels of PBDEs measured worldwide have been in California human and wildlife populations. Levels of these compounds have been doubling in human tissues and breast milk every few years and levels measured in humans in the US and Canada are typically at least 10 times higher than those in Europe.

A Cal/EPA workgroup, led by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), has issued a report to address continuing exposures of Californians to PBDEs after June 1. The mode by which PBDEs enter the environment is not known, however, wastewater (sewage) treatment plants are one possible source. PBDEs are used in transportation, including cars, trucks, and mass transit vehicles and may be present in automotive residue on roadways. The workgroup recommends reducing PBDE exposures through outreach and education, and voluntary pollution prevention. http://www.oehha.ca.gov/public_info/pbderpt.html

Areas of Special Biological Significance – Monitoring Q&A – The State Water Resources Control Board has posted questions and answers regarding the runoff and ocean monitoring that is necessary to support an application for an exception to the Ocean Plan. An exception is needed for storm water runoff that enters ASBS from roads and urban areas since the runoff is considered a waste and waste discharge is prohibited in the Ocean Plan. The document states that the receiving water sampling stations should be adjacent to the outfall, within the runoff “plume,” and preferably immediately outside the surf zone (i.e., seaward).

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plnspols/docs/asbs/preexceptionmon_faqs.pdf

Upcoming:

- ♦ **CASQA** - California Stormwater Quality Association Meeting; **May 12**; San Jose; *topic*: monitoring; \$50 payable at the door or online, includes lunch; <http://www.casqa.org/>
- ♦ **Course**: Stormwater Treatment: How It Works (Or Does It); **May 2-3**; San Clemente; more information: http://www.stormwaterbook.com/short_course.html
- ♦ **National Conference** – “Monitoring Networks: Connecting for Clean Water” by National Water Quality Monitoring Council; **May 7 -11**; San Jose; co-sponsored by USGS, EPA, Water Boards; *focus*: large-scale collaborative monitoring networks such as the proposed National Water Quality Monitoring Network for U.S. Coastal Waters and their Tributaries; http://water.usgs.gov/wicp/acwi/monitoring/conference/2006/06_NMC_conf_announcement.pdf
- ♦ **California and the World Ocean Conference - Call for Papers** – This State-sponsored will be held Sept. 17-20, 2006. Presentation abstracts due **April 14**: <http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/cwo06/>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>